

want in the Mediterranean, their natural sphere of expansion. The more success they find in that sphere the less will they be moved to assert their grievances against us." When the Ambassador observed that he should report these words textually, the Chancellor replied that he would put them in writing if requested. It has often been argued that the object of his suggestion to take Tunis was to drive a wedge between France and Italy. He may have foreseen such a result, though he could not know in advance that France would seize the country without consulting or compensating her rival. His main object was to diminish the tension which threatened the stability of his work. " M. Waddington in office and you here are a pledge of peace and understanding."

The *detente* bore fruit when the administration of the Rhine provinces was transferred to Strassburg, Field Marshal

Manteuffel, the first Statthalter, was an admirable choice. *Le bon vieux*, as he was called, once again showed his conciliatory disposition. He liked the French and respected their intransigence. " Je crains bien que nous avons fait une faute en gardant Metz," he remarked to Gontaut-Biron. " C'est i& ce qui blesse les Frangais." In his heart he despised Schneegans and other Autonomists, who, next to the German immigrants,

were the chief bulwark of the Reich. If his native province of Pomerania had been lost, he confessed, he would never have recognized its finality. The Statthalter carried on his pacifying policy so far as he was permitted by Berlin.

A Council of State was appointed, the powers of the Diet were enlarged, and Commissioners represented the interests of the provinces in the Bundesrat. It was hoped in some quarters that they might be transformed into a federal unit like Baden or Wiirttemberg, but this had to wait for another

thirty years.
No gratitude was felt and none could be
expected, for the
hearts of the majority of the people were still
French. At the
moment when fresh responsibilities were
entrusted to the
inhabitants the Autonomist party, which had
stood for co-
operation with the Reich, collapsed under the
burden of
popular disfavour; and Schneegans, its leader,
had to leave
Alsace and accept employment in the Consular
service.

" Thanks to Prince Bismarck and yourself,"
wrote St.
Vallier to Waddington in September 1879,
"great progress
has been made during the year and a half I
have been in
Berlin. Our work will be completed when every
Frenchman
is certain, as I am certain, that Germany
meditates neither